

I am a frightened and concerned citizen of this country. Not unlike millions. What frightenes me the most is corporate subsidization and propugation of one-sided philosophies into the general media. Not only have we lost our ability to afford health insurance and ensure security for our families, we can't even hear the whole story anymore?

That is why I protest the recent decision by Sinclair Corp to force feed an anti-Kerry documentary onto the airwaves into the mouths of millions of voters nights before the election in November. This, by definition, is propaganda without a fair balance. Will they be airing the pro-Kerry "Going Up River" afterwards? No.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is also a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for our overall democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Without this, the pen will become weaker than the sword.

Thank you.